

OCT 12 1962

Approved For Release 1999/09/07 : CIA-RDP75-0
DALLAS, TEXAS
NEWS

MORNING - 220,583
SUNDAY - 239,930

CPYRGHT

OCT 12 1962

FOIAb3b

Blood Money for Castro

THOSE who have protested the deal now being negotiated for ransom of 1,113 Bay of Pigs prisoners are not stone-hearted pragmatists who cannot see the humanitarian side of the picture. Like everyone else, they sympathize with the relatives and friends of these men Fidel Castro has held for 18 months.

They also know that the United States bears a great responsibility for their imprisonment and an ultimate obligation to secure their freedom. After all, it was the last-minute withdrawal of U.S. air support for the invasion which we had encouraged that cost these men their freedom.

There are, however, many good and valid reasons for questioning the wisdom of this deal which New York lawyer James Donovan (who negotiated the release of U2 pilot Francis Gary Powers and is now a candidate for the U.S. Senate) is attempting to reach with Castro.

— ★ —

FIRST, the ransom pay-off (whether in the form of dollars, food or medicine) can only perpetuate the Castro tyranny. It will lengthen the sentence of the other 90,000 political prisoners languishing in Cuban jails. It will postpone the day when the 6 million people of Cuba will be liberated from their communist enslavement.

Food, medicine and money paid to Castro in ransom obviously will help provide the needs of thousands of Russian and communist-bloc troops that have arrived over the past two months in Cuba. Some will also go to Cuban communist troops and officials, but it is doubtful that the Cuban people will receive any at all.

Timing of this deal is particularly unwise, for it coincides with official protests by Congress and the administration to our NATO allies who have been shipping supplies to Cuba.

If the United States now sends or even permits private groups to send upwards of \$2 million dollars' worth of supplies to Cuba (the amount Castro has demanded), our allies will be able to argue, with good reason, that they have been doing nothing so great to perpetuate Castro's regime.

When they have shipped supplies to Cuba, at least they have been paid for them and taken something away from Castro's near-bankrupt treasury.

— ★ —

THOUGH the administration has attempted to stay out of the ransom deal officially, it is apparent that it is deeply involved.

An Associated Press dispatch concedes that "the American taxpayer apparently will have to pay a share of the bill if prisoners taken in the abortive Cuban invasion are released."

The dispatch said that CIA funds may be used and the President's emergency fund undoubtedly will be tapped. There is no question, of course, that the administration is supporting the effort, however undercover that support may be.

If it were opposed to the ransom deal, it would invoke the statutes which prohibit private citizens from negotiating with agents of a foreign power.

This support from the administration not only runs counter to the statements of U.S. policy authorized within the past two weeks by Congress, but it also places the United States in a ridiculous light in the eyes of the rest of the world. Irrespective of the humanitarian motive, the deal will be viewed by most as a serious blow to U.S. prestige. The payment of blood money on Castro's demand will be seen as an admission of U.S. timidity and willingness to be pushed around by any and every two-bit tyrant.